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The Highlander

Thursday April 3 2025 | Issue 683

INSIDE: FEEDING KIDS A HEARTY MEAL PAGE 12 FREE

Larry Smith, Kirk Smith and Mike Hamilton sprang into action over the weekend, clearing trees from Deep Bay Road in Minden. See more on page 6. *Photo courtesy of Cheryl Smith Hamilton*.

Ice storm cleanup continues

By Mike Baker

Hydro One estimated more than 7,500 customers in Haliburton County were without power as of noon, April 2, as recovery from the weekend's ice storm continues.

Work was underway at over 60 locations across the Highlands as of press time, with crews doing what they can to restore downed and damaged power lines, said Hydro One representative Tiziana Baccega Rose.

So far, approximately 820,000 customers across Ontario have had power restored, with 203,000 homes still in the dark. The company did not say when it would have power restored for most County residents, though its online outage map states most should be back online by April 3 at 11 p.m.

"After most storms, we typically see damage concentrated in specific areas. This storm has been widespread, with damage accumulating over several days. On some lines, crews have identified multiple types of damage that need to be addressed before power can be restored.

"Crews are focused on restoring the main lines that run from the local stations to the community. Then they will be able to focus on cleaning damage from lines that serve smaller groups of customers to get the power back on… we expect restoration in the hardest hit areas to continue throughout the week," Rose told *The Highlander.*

She said Hydro One workers have been called in from other parts of the province to support areas most impacted, with local utility companies and contractors also assisting.

Continued **'Thousands'** on page 6

County doc running for Liberals

By Lisa Gervais

Dr. Nell Thomas joined the Liberal Party of Canada only recently, and "specifically" to vote for Mark Carney as leader.

Then she realized the local riding association did not have a candidate. Now, she's it.

The former author of an environmental column in *The Highlander* is asked why the Liberals, not Green or NDP?

Thomas said she is "Green at heart" and backs an environmental platform, however had voted for every party over the years, in a number of different ridings.

"I have voted Green, I have voted NDP, I have voted Liberal, I have voted Conservative. I have even voted for Jamie (Schmale) and Laurie (Scott). It really is about what is the best thing at that time for the community, for either the province or the country at that time. And, also, who is the candidate that I am voting for.

"Right now, we don't have a choice. We must lead this country with the strongest, most unifying, and smart, and bold, leader that we can get. We have unprecedented risks against Canada, our sovereignty right now. And understanding the critical situation that Canada is in, is a starting point for people to stand up, pay attention, and vote for their country."

Continued **'Liberal'** on page 2

Highlander news

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GARDENING FOR LIFE

Liberal hopeful: 'we are all in this together'

Continued from page 1

Thomas said her heart is with her patients in Minden, but her conscience is with her county, her community, and the riding.

She is taking a leave of absence from her practice, but said her patients would not be abandoned, as they have a plan for coverage.

Thomas said she does not think it's a done deal that Schmale will be re-elected.

"The momentum for the Liberals, and the number of people pouring out of the woodwork at us; clamouring to my team right now, saying, 'we've always voted Conservative. We can't vote for Poilievre. Please give us something to do. Please give us a sign'. It's unbelievable the momentum right now. You never know until it's over".

In the blood

Thomas' father, Richard Thomas, was a politician. He ran for leadership of the provincial Liberals, against Sheila Copps and David Peterson in 1982. He finished third. He ran against Ernie Eves in Parry Sound-Muskoka in the 1981 provincial election; and finished just six votes shy of Eves. He made the Green party in the riding strong. He was also a municipal politician. He was a radio announcer, who did voiceovers and film narration.

"Right now, I pull from my dad. He coached me a little bit over the years: how to speak without having a speech in front of you; be authentic, and speaking to your own convictions. Nobody can poke that balloon or burst that bubble. When you are speaking about profoundly important things and you know you are right."

She said she knows right now what the risks are to Canadians, so is giving electors "an opportunity to choose a candidate that will put the country as the priority."

> *"We have unprecedented risks against Canada, our sovereignty right now.*
>
> ***– Dr. Nell Thomas***

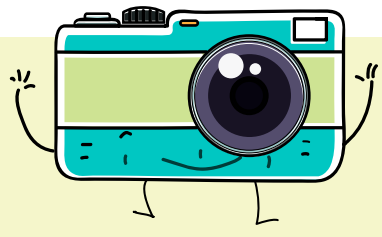
Dr. Nell Thomas, Liberal candidate. *Submitted.*

She stresses her running is not about her, but about Canada "and the real threats to Canada, the aggression from the United States. We have every reason to believe that Donald Trump intends to take over Canada. We have every reason to be fearful our land, our resources, our water, our industries, our culture, our personal freedoms, our rights, all of that, is at risk."

Speaking to Schmale, she said that "by association, he is aligning himself with Poilievre, who has been publicly endorsed by those who align themselves with Donald Trump.

"That's the problem under the Conservative machine … we are being asked to divide, to see others differently, or having less value. That is the opposite of what we need to be doing now. We must recognize that we are all in this together."

The federal Liberals have an office at 146 Kent St. W., Lindsay.



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Highlander news

Campbells to expand business footprint

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council has supported a draft plan from the Campbell family, owners of Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC in Haliburton, to create five new commercial lots on just over seven acres of land between Mallard Road and County Road 21.

Addressing council March 25, Dysart planner Kris Orsan said the proposal features lots between one and two acres, totalling 7.4 acres, and would be serviced by a private road currently made up of driveways accessing the property from Mallard Road and CR21 by Todd's Independent Grocer.

The property is zoned highway commercial, which Orsan said supports things like restaurants, banks and clinics.

"The property is surrounded by a mix of industrial, commercial and residential uses. The proposed development aligns with the character of the surrounding area and serves as a suitable transition between the industrial park to the north and the residential areas to the south and west.

"Its design and scale will… support economic growth and community integration. The development will also enhance the overall functionality of the area by providing a buffer between differing uses, promoting a cohesive and well-planned urban environment," Orsan wrote in his report.

He noted the application was prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying and included a draft plan of subdivision, functional servicing report, stormwater management and construction mitigation plans, hydrogeological service study, and environmental impact study. All reports were peer-reviewed by Michalski Nielsen Associates on behalf of the township in June 2024.

While the hydrogeological servicing study confirmed there are enough groundwater resources to adequately meet the needs of the development, Orsan said the municipality will require proof of potable water at the site. He said they may also mandate a more thorough examination to ensure any development won't impact water quality or access for neighbouring properties.

Haliburton County mapping identified four wetlands in the vicinity, with two located within 120 metres of the subject property, though Orsan noted none are recognized as provincially significant. He added, "the development is not anticipated to have a negative impact to the features."

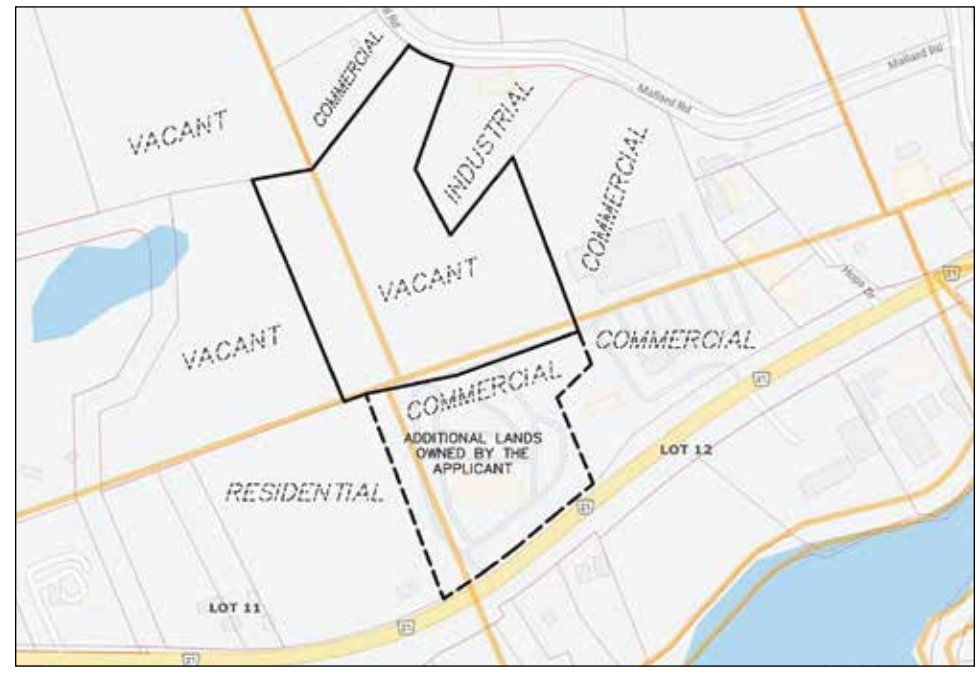
The environmental impact study identified potential habitats for three endangered bat and bird species. Orsan said the owners will be responsible for complying with provincial and federal environmental regulations, while noting the report recommends vegetation clearing be done between May 1 and Sept. 30 to prevent harm to animals using trees for roosting.

Next steps

Orsan said the project will now go to the County for draft plan of subdivision and condominium – there's no residential aspect, with the latter covering an application to create a recognized private road. Pending County approval, it will come back to Dysart to develop a subdivision agreement.

Tony Usher, representing the Campbells, said this plan has been in the works for several years. He noted the 7.4 acre parcel was severed from the Curry Motors property prior to 2019, which is when he was retained.

Usher said the proposal includes a two per cent allocation of land to the township for a park, or cash payment of two per cent of the land's value pre-development.



A map showing the 7.4 acre vacant parcel the Campbell family wants to develop behind Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC. *Photos courtesy of Dysart et al.*

There was some discussion among council over the need to install a walking path – as requested by the former Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR). Some members felt that was unnecessary given no other business in the vicinity has a footpath.

Clerk Mallory Bishop recommended council mandate footpaths for new businesses on that side of town.

"The intent is to develop out into that area. Pathways will be needed for walking. Council has bought land out in that area… this is something to consider for the future of this town," Bishop said. "Pedestrians will be able to navigate the area better with a designated footpath, which is important… especially if something like a clinic were to go in."

Usher said the Campbells are happy to include walking paths in their proposal.

In a follow-up with *The Highlander*, Usher said, if approved, it will likely be several months before the lots are severed and development can proceed. He noted the Campbells may retain one lot but intend to sell the rest. There are no immediate plans for how or when they will be developed.

The Campbells declined an interview.

OPP NEWS

Traffic stop leads to charges

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a driver with impaired operation-related offences as the result of a traffic complaint.

On March 27, at approximately 12:08 a.m. Haliburton Highlands OPP were dispatched to a traffic complaint in the area of Hwy. 35 in Algonquin Highlands. Officers patrolled the area and located the vehicle in question and conducted a traffic stop. After speaking with the driver, the officers were quickly led to an impaired driving investigation.

As a result, a 22-year-old from Bobcaygeon has been charged with: operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs, operation while impaired - blood concentration (80 plus), driving motor vehicle with open container of alcohol and novice driver BAC above zero under the *Highway Traffic Act.*

In addition to the charges, the accused was issued a 90-day licence suspension, and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a future date. *(OPP news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*

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Highlander news

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Crown Land meeting tabled

By Lisa Gervais

Only minutes into a County council meeting March 26 - to discuss the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's plans to pitch the Milburn Kendrick area of interest (MKAI) as a conservation reserve – and the meeting was cancelled due to a medical emergency.

The County said the meeting would be postponed to a later date.

However, much of what was to come was already part of the public record as it was on last week's agenda.

The HHLT is telling landowners its pitch to the province is years away - and won't come about without provincially-led public consultation.

HHLT board member Sheila Ziman noted in a slide presentation that the MKAI is 100 per cent Crown land, not private, and represents approximately two per cent of all lands and waters in Haliburton County.

"Protection of the MKAI as a conservation reserve is our only proposal," her powerpoint reads. The Land Trust has been talking about a larger area of land known as the Highlands Corridor.

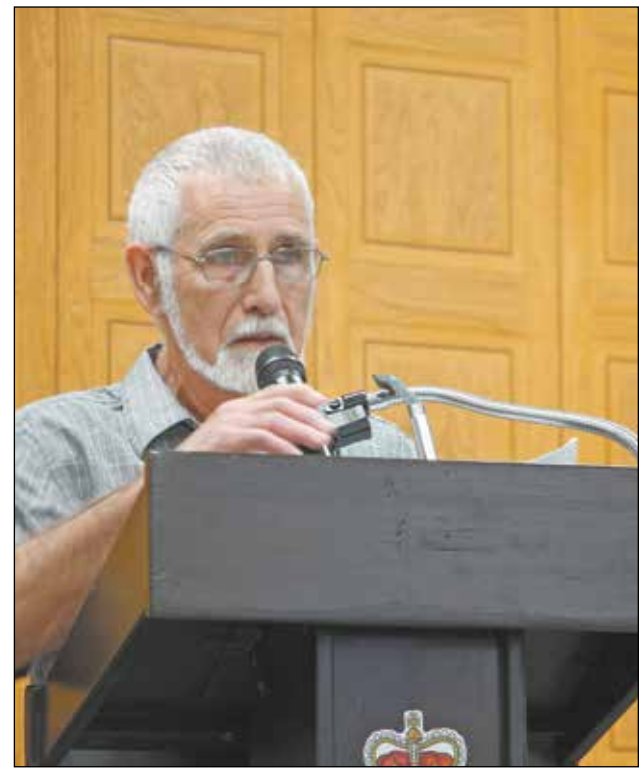
Members of the newly-formed Citizens for Crown land Protection (CCLP) were in the audience at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce for the meeting. That group held a packed open house at the Haliburton Legion March 23. They are opposed to the designation.

Ziman said the Land Trust excluded an operating aggregate pit from the boundary, so it can continue. Further, she said there are no mining claims in the MKAI. Conservation reserves do not allow logging, mining or aggregates.

However, "there are several snowmobile trails, ATV trails, and hunt camps in this area. The objective of a conservation reserve designation is to provide opportunities for hunting, and motorized vehicle use is permitted. This is precisely why HHLT is proposing a conservation reserve designation rather than a provincial park, where hunting and motorized vehicle use are not allowed," she said.

She stressed they were only at the pre-planning stage, and the formal government process for designating the area as a conservation reserve has not even started.

Ziman said the Land Trust simply nominated the area, and it is up to the government to accept, and recommend a reserve. "Once that announcement is made, the formal process … will begin." She said that triggers public consultation and the Land Trust supports an open and transparent public consultation process.



John Davidson of Wilberforce is part of the newly-formed Citizens for Crown land Protection, which held an open house at the Haliburton Legion March 23. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*.

"The Land Trust does not write the management plan. The government prepares the plan and invites the public to review and comment on the plan. The government administers the plan. The Land Trust has no administrative authority. There is also a process to amend the plan if changes are required."

Addressing public concerns about use, she emphasized hunting, fishing, and trapping, ATVs, snowmobiles and creating new trails are allowed on Crown Land and in conservation reserves.

"There is evidence that things have not changed since Clear Lake was regulated as a conservation reserve in 1997," she said.

Continued on next page

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Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Season starts on April 1 and ends on October 31 in any given year. There is no daytime burning permitted. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm (Daytime Burning).

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display until May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.
- *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario) will be on display until June 28 in the Welch Room. The exhibit examines the Indian residential school experience, particularly in the two schools that were in Kenora – Cecilia Jeffrey and St. Mary's.
- A special screening of *Cold Journey* (1975) on April 3 at 1:00pm. Directed by Martin Defalco, this is a poignant drama about Indigenous youth in 1970's Canada. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board, in partnership with the HCPL – Minden Branch.
- The UFO Craft Group will meet in the Welch Room on Friday, April 4 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

April 10 – Regular Council Meeting
April 24 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

DROP-IN SCHEDULE AND SPRING PROGRAMMING

- The new spring drop-in schedule is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Check out the schedule and come and join one of the many drop-in programs available.
- There is still space in the upcoming spring youth programming. Register online or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Administration Desk for basketball, soccer, volleyball, multi-sport or creative minds.

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Highlander news

Land Trust proposal to be discussed at later date

Continued from page 4

She also offered an emphatic 'no' that HHLT plans to control private land, purchase Crown land, control access to Crown land and conservation reserves, close trails, write management plans for Crown land and conservation reserves, and turn the Highlands Corridor into a park.

"We encourage everyone to participate in the public consultation process led by the Ontario government to ensure your voices are heard," Ziman said.

An open house at the Halburton Legion March 23. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Petition and Facebook group

During its public meeting, the CCLP, and its spokesman, John Davidson, outlined their position.

They said public land "must remain vested in our provincial and local governments and not be directed by any special interest group. This proposal is an attempt to redesignate huge blocks of public land from general use Crown land to conservation reserve." Ziman said it is two per cent of County land, and the government would oversee it.

The CCLP said, "it's no accident many endangered and rare species are found throughout this area. It is the result of sound sustainable management by MNRF, MECP, and local municipalities and they should continue to do so."

> *"The stated objectives of a conservation reserve are to provide opportunities for traditional outdoor heritage activities and to protect the natural environment."*
> ***– Sheila Ziman, HHLT***

The group went on to claim, "despite what the Land Trust is telling us, such a redesignation would take control completely away from MNRF and the municipalities of Minden Hills and Highlands East, placing it in the hands of the conservation reserve manager, who would have extraordinary powers under the *Ontario Parks and Conservation Reserves Act*. This would not be in the best interests of the local population, the economy, or the general public."

The County of Haliburton's planner, Elizabeth Purcell, and its CAO, Gary Dyke, reiterated in a written report, the Land Trust is the proponent for the designation but once the ministry has passed designation, the HHLT, "will generally be removed from the rest of the process" with the MECP then driving the project. The MECP creates a management plan. That triggers at least two opportunities for public consultation.

They said an example is the recent creation of the Monarch Point Conservation Reserve in Prince Edward County.

Krystle Shannon's written delegation said the CCLP had 2,674 signatures on a petition against, as well as 384 members on Facebook.

She said, "existing protections are not only sufficient but well-enforced and the introduction of a conservation reserve would add unnecessary constraints at the expense of Haliburton County's economy and community vitality."

In a letter to the meeting, Steve Galea, news editor of *Ontario Out of Doors* magazine said he had looked into landowners' claims. After discussions with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the HHLT, "I was reassured that none of the concerns raised by the (initial) Facebook post were accurate," he said.

The Ontario Trails Protection Alliance has written a letter of support to the HHLT, and the Land Trust recently received Conservation Excellence Certification, one of six in Canada, from the Centre for Land Conservation.

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Highlander news

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Thousands still without power

Continued from page 1

Rose said reconnection for residences in remote areas and for water-access only properties will take longer. She also warned that another storm system, beginning April 2, may result in further outages.

Municipal response

After Minden Hills declared a state of emergency March 31, mayor Bob Carter said the community is "suffering through unprecedented series of challenges." Many people are also without cell and internet service, Carter said.

"Our staff and emergency control group have been working through the weekend… now supplemented by staff from the County of Haliburton, our neighbouring municipalities, Renfrew County, York Region, and the province," Carter said.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena has been open 24 hours a day during the emergency, serving as a warming centre for those without power and an information hub for people looking for updates on clean-up and restoration efforts. There are shower facilities available, as well as spots for charging devices. Pets are not permitted at the arena.

A mobile virtual triage and assessment centre has been set up at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. *Submitted*.

A mobile virtual triage and assessment centre has been set up at the arena. Paramedics will be available to treat health concerns 24/7, no appointment needed.

Carter said all other municipal facilities are temporarily closed. While landfill sites remain open for regular winter hours – as with all across the County – most locations are cash-only.

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey said Haliburton village was largely unscathed.

"Fortunately, we got a couple inches of snow before the rain and it certainly reduced the impact. We have had several power outages, most are coming back on. We do have some trees down but issues we can deal with. Nothing compared to what I'm seeing in Minden and Algonquin Highlands," Fearrey said.

He said the township hadn't established any warming stations in the community, noting "[we] haven't had any requests or need that I have been aware of, or staff."

Dysart town hall reopened April 1. The township has also ended the significant weather event it declared alongside the County and other three lower-tier townships March 28.

Algonquin Highlands opted to extend its warning until April 4, given the threat of more freezing rain this week. The township office on North Shore Road will remain open to the public during regular operating hours, with the Dorset Recreation Centre also open.

Deputy mayor Jen Dailloux, said

Devastation on Deep Bay Road. *Photo Cheryl Smith Hamilton.*

residents endured "treacherous conditions" over the weekend.

"There were intermittent power outages, and a couple of localized outages continue as branches get cleared off lines. But the greatest impact was the partial communications blackout, which affected the southern half of the township." Dailloux said.

She noted the township deployed public works staff to Minden Hills to assist with storm clean-up.

Highlands East municipal office in Wilberforce was closed March 28 to April 1, but reopened April 2.

Other closures

All Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) schools, including those in the County, have been shuttered since Monday.

"Some areas within TLDSB are still without power and are dealing with the aftermath of the storm, such as power and internet outages, downed trees and hazardous conditions. In addition, there are freezing rain warnings [Wednesday] morning. In the interest of student and staff safety, we have made the decision to keep schools and childcare centres within schools closed," said communications lead Carolynne Bull. "Schools will not be moving to online learning."

The Haliburton School of Art + Design was also closed March 31 and April 1.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is under a Communications Code Grey, with all telephone, IT and internet services offline. The emergency department in Haliburton remains open, with the Urgent Care Clinic in Minden reopening Wednesday with regular hours, after closing March 31 and April 1. LifeLabs also reopened Wednesday.

HHHS' community support services will be interrupted, including adult day program, meals on wheels and transportation. For those in-need, meals can be picked up in Haliburton between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. this week.

Highland Wood and Hyland Crest long-term care facilities remain open to visitors. Staff noted phone lines at the centres remain down as of press time.

Most businesses have reopened in Haliburton and Minden, though are cash only.

Mary Douglas, owner of Let's Get Local in Minden, said, "it's been a rough go for everyone, that's for sure. Lessons learned – always have some cash on hand. We're cash-only while systems are offline."

Pitching in

Cheryl Smith Hamilton was trying to get down Deep Bay Road in Minden on Sunday to check in with her parents, who live on the road, but found it impassable due to downed trees. After confirming they were OK, Smith Hamilton said rather than wait for municipal staff or hydro workers to clear the route, her family got to work.

Larry and Donelda Smith, Kirk Smith, Smith Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton spent hours trimming branches buckling under the weight of ice build-up and clearing limbs that were blocking the road.

"As we were clearing, other travellers would join in to pull debris off the road. About midpoint down Deep Bay, we were met by another individual who had been clearing it from Hwy. 35-way up," she told *The Highlander.*

She posted a video to her social media March 30 showing the damage, which was shared almost 900 times. An update on April 2 showed the road back to normal, with Smith Hamilton adding, "so thankful that I live in a smalltown where locals and visitors never hesitate to jump in and help out anyone in need… it truly takes a village."

North Shore Road resident Paul MacInnes said he had power earlier this week when many of his friends and neighbours didn't. So, he and his wife, Susan, opened up their home. They offered people a hot shower and home-cooked meal.

"You do what you can in situations like this. That's what community is all about," MacInnes said.

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Snails, invasives the talk of U-Links event

By Mike Baker

Four years into a volunteer-led program removing invasive Chinese mystery snails from County lakes and Paul MacInnes, chair of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA), said almost 1.4 million critters have been evicted to date.

Speaking at U-Links celebration of research event March 29, which took place virtually due to the weekend ice storm, MacInnes said the effort is going strong. Launching in 2021 with 235 volunteers, he said 425 people were active on 41 County lakes last summer.

He expects that number to grow again this year. For participants, it's not as simple as turning up with a can-do attitude, there's training involved on how to properly handle and dispose of the snails.

MacInnes said the snails have been a major problem on lakes through the Trent Severn Waterway system for decades.

"They're not like normal snails, which lay eggs that are eaten by fish. These snails are born in their shell, so it makes them very resistant to being eaten. Females can give birth to up to 100 juveniles a year.

"They are a threat to lake and human health because they force out native species, they're a vector for parasites, cause swimmer's itch and reduce recreational pleasure on lakes," MacInnes said.

Last summer, he said one group on South Lake collected over 80,000 snails in a single day. The species originated in eastern Asia, landing in North America in the late 1800s. The snails were introduced to the Great Lakes around 1931.

Given how entrenched the snails are in our lakes' ecosystems, MacInnes said full eradication isn't realistic. The program's effectiveness differs from lake-to-lake.

"It depends very much on the make-up of the lake and how many volunteers are involved. On some lakes, we have made significant progress. The goal is to keep the snails under control to a point where people can go swimming.

"For lakes I've visited, it's much better with this control than on lakes where there's no volunteers collecting. On those lakes, it's basically impossible to go for a swim now," MacInnes said.

A group of volunteers collected 80,000 Chinese mystery snails in a single day on South Lake last summer. *Submitted.*

More monitoring

Dr. Pedro Antunes, an invasive species and climate change biologist teaching at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, provided a high-level overview of plant-based and insect invasives at the event.

He said there's a correlation between climate change and the onset of some invasive species. Antunes noted the average temperature in Canada is 1.1 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels. In some northern areas, the change is closer to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"With this changing temperature, plant communities are changing," he said, noting other contaminants like microplastics, pesticides, heavy metals, and intensive agriculture can lead to more nitrogen filtering into the ground, which he says is a negative.

Antunes said Ontario is a hot spot for invasive species in Canada, hosting the highest number of invasive plants in the country. He attributed this to overseas shipping, estimating 64 per cent of containers entering Canada come via the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence corridor.

"Most of the invasive plants come from the agricultural and horticultural sector, things like ornamental plants… we have a very good grasp of where these plants are coming from and where we need to keep vigilant," he said, plugging a guidebook published in 2013 that identifies 14 plants and 11 insects and pathogens that are most concerning.

He and his team developed that list using data to see "what species are moving the needle more than others and then target these species for control." Antunes said the goal is to get to a point where, through continuous tracking, scientists will be able to detect new invasive species before they spread. He said this has been done in the U.S. with some forms of algae.

"We just need better monitoring," he said.

Community plays 'big role'

Kayleigh Mooney, an ecological restoration student at Trent University, said community members can play a significant role in aquatic science. Speaking at the event, she shared how, when surveying Gilchrist Bay north of Peterborough, she watched a lakefront resident pulling what she thought was starry stonewort, an invasive macroalgae, from the water. After going to speak with the resident, Mooney said it was a native plant she was removing.

"By pulling them out, she was removing the buffer that could lead to more of the starry stonewort coming in," she said, highlighting the importance of people knowing the difference between a native and non-native before springing into action.

Mooney said people who frequent a lake more often than visiting scientists can be key to understanding how invasive species adapt to and change their surroundings.

"There's more to the story than just the species itself. The wider community and ecosystem it's a part of is important too," she said. "Folks have the opportunity to intimately understand and observe these relational interactions in a way researchers could never capture. We get one side of the story, but there's a role that could be filled by the community to capture the other side. One that shows the full extent of what's truly happening within our lakes."

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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One for the ages

By Mike Baker

I'm going to go ahead and take the blame for this past weekend's weather.

When notices first went out March 27 warning people about a nasty ice storm system set to sweep across southeastern Ontario, I told my family there was no reason to worry. That these things tend to come and go with a whimper. We'll be fine.

I felt vindicated late Friday after a light drizzle of freezing rain gave my driveway a shiny finish, but nothing of much concern or out of the ordinary. Then, on Saturday morning, everything went dark. Three days later, while sitting down to write this column, my home is still without power. I've been told it will be Thursday or Friday before it's back online. Maybe longer if this latest system, expected to hit late Wednesday, brings even more chaos.

Hundreds of thousands of Ontarians are in the same boat. So too are thousands in Haliburton County. Power lines weren't the only things impacted – we're hearing cell services are down for some too. Talk about being in the dark.

While the lack of internet and television is an inconvenience most of us can endure, falling temperatures earlier this week has made things miserable, almost unbearable for those who rely on electricity for heating. Hands up if you're one of those. The temperature inside my home while writing this is 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Yes, I'm wearing six layers…

The good news is that things are subsiding. According to Hydro One, 783,000 customers have had power reinstated since Sunday. There are outages across large swathes of the Highlands, but Haliburton and Minden villages appear to be largely back online.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board closed all schools March 28, 31, April 1 and 2, with the Haliburton School of Art + Design also shuttered, though facilities were reopened April 3. Many businesses are also open for business again.

The township office in Minden Hills and Highlands East remain closed, though S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena has been open to the public as an information and warming centre 24-hours a day since Monday. There are showers available for those in-need and spots for charging devices.

The Algonquin Highlands township office in Stanhope and the Dorset Recreation Centre are also open, so too the municipal office in Dysart.

The County and four lower-tier townships declared a significant weather event March 28, with Minden Hills going one step further in declaring a state of emergency March 31. This is a last resort measure townships can enact to access additional resources to improve emergency response.

Minden mayor Bob Carter said the community is suffering through an unprecedented series of challenges. He's right on that front, but as is usually the case when the proverbial you-know-what hits the fan, Highlanders are banding together, enduring through this latest disaster.

I've seen accounts on social media of people showing up unannounced to help clear debris from blocked driveways, allowing people to get out. There have been other instances of those with power opening their homes to those without.

This is a personal one given the power outage knocked out the sump pump at my grandmother's house, flooding her basement, but I noticed one local contractor, who preferred to stay anonymous, offering emergency pump outs free of charge to anyone in a similar situation.

It's important to point out that while emergency situations often bring out the worst in people, there are those who step up to the plate to offer help when it's needed most.

As a community, we will endure.

Common ground

By Lisa Gervais

Whether it was a packed County council meeting March 26 at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre – or March 23's full house at the Haliburton Legion, one thing is clear.

While they are coming at it from different sides, everyone wants to protect Crown land in Haliburton County.

As is often the case these days, regrettably, the whole saga began with a Facebook post. It objected to the Milburn Kendrick area of interest becoming a conservation reserve with wider condemnation of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust for proposing the Highlands Corridor.

The social media wind blew and the flames spread.

The Land Trust tried to quell the riot with some correspondence of their own: that traditional land uses of hunting, fishing, and trapping would continue. So would trail use, whether ATV or snowmobile.

They didn't hide the fact it would stop logging, aggregate extraction, and mining claims.

Their educational campaign didn't land – and the Citizens for Crown land Protection group was formed.

Throughout this ordeal, there has been misunderstanding and misinformation.

It is refreshing to see some of the finer points being addressed by the HHLT and County of Haliburton (see the agenda for the March 26 County council meeting).

For example, The Land Trust isn't just a special interest group, funded by other special interest groups, attempting a massive land grab to stop everything.

They are looking at a parcel of land that comprises two per cent of the County, all on Crown land. Two per cent. They are at the pre-planning stage. They can recommend to the government of Ontario that the MKAI become a conservation reserve and their work is basically done. It is the government that then steps in. It appoints a manager and comes up with a plan – in consultation with landowners.

There is an existing aggregate operation in the area. The Land Trust made sure it was not within the reserve's mapping. It can continue as is. The folks who hold the timber rights have no problem with the designation. It's not a great logging area, apparently. I'm not sure about mining claims. Nothing has come up about that.

So, if the province even entertains this idea, it will be the province that takes care of it going forward.

But before we even get there, there has to be extensive public consultation – and landowners can definitely have a say on what the future land uses would be.

I applaud the concerned citizens for ensuring the protection of their private, and Crown lands across the Highlands. These same folks have been very good stewards. We value their historic ties to the land. We are not anti-hunting, fishing, or trapping. Indeed, it is our heritage and our future.

What we do ask for is a spirit of co-operation, as opposed to separation. One person asked at the open house if the CCLP was bigger than the HHLT. Everyone wants to protect our Crown land. We know the cultural and economic importance. It needs to be managed sustainably, with equal access to all. Let's get there together.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Townships must support Canada

Dear editor,

In the March 27, 2025 *Highlander*, County CAO Gary Duke is quoted as saying: "There's no appetite...for ending existing agreements with U.S. companies."

While it might not be feasible to end existing American contracts without significant penalties, I do think that it should be explored and new contracts be restricted to Canadian companies.

Even if Canadian bids are more costly, there is a great public appetite to counter the current anti-Canadian executive orders issued by U.S. president Donald Trump, by standing up for our country and for Canadians.

Our County needs to support local companies and the Canadian economy, even if it requires more work on their part.

Diane Duff
Minden

Looking forward to Doc(d) Day

Dear editor,

An excellent article in the March 27 *Highlander* about the upcoming Haliburton Documentary Film Festival on April 5.

I am looking forward to a day of movies that are focusing on the Joy of life.

I would like to add another dimension to Schiller's poem, mentioned in the article, The Ode to Joy, in German "An Die Freude". Schiller wrote the poem in 1785 when Germany was governed by an assortment of tin-pot dictators with titles like king, prince, archduke, and duke. Yes, in those days, the masses were still ruled by Divine Right or God given power. The Enlightenment challenged these authoritarian, oppressive forms of government, resulting in the people in power reacting with more oppressive laws to keep the masses in check. Schiller originally used the word Freiheit as in "An die Freiheit" (Ode to Freedom in English), but for safety's reason later substituted the word Freiheit with the word Freude—two beautiful F-words in German.

Nearly 250 years ago, people were unsafe to use certain words, due to the political climate, and fast forward to the present, in these dark times, the current U.S. government has published a list of words that its citizens will use at their peril. Similar to the days of Schiller, when due process was non-existent, due process is again under attack, and citizens are subject to an abusive would-be dictator who, unfortunately, has far more power at his disposal than the tin pot dictators of Schiller's times.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Swaning around on the water. *Photo by Randy Barber.*

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Cathy Mc ... does much for others

By Susan Tromanhauser

As an on-air host with CanoeFM, Cathy McIlmurray enjoys sharing stories about how others contribute to Haliburton County so it seems ironic she needed to be convinced she was one of those people. Here is her story.

Born and raised in Toronto, the eldest of seven children, McIlmurray has fond memories of childhood. Her family taught kindness matters and lived accordingly. To this day, McIlmurray "likes to see the good in people." The family enjoyed camping and sometimes rented a cottage "up north," so as a newlywed, McIlmurray jumped at the opportunity to purchase a cottage on Eagle Lake.

Unfortunately, the marriage did not last, but McIlmurray's love for the cottage did. When it came time to divide assets, McIlmurray refused to sell the cottage, so she bought out her husband's share. She discovered banks were reluctant to give a mortgage to a young single mother but she was able to convince one bank manager to provide her a line of credit – at 28 per cent interest. Many of McIlmurray's friends thought she was being stubborn keeping the cottage but McIlmurray feels it was a wise financial decision allowing her to build equity. She rented out the property just enough to pay the money owed and still had time to enjoy Eagle Lake with her young children.

Come retirement, McIlmurray wanted to be in Haliburton. She sold the cottage and purchased a home to suit her needs. She is now in a raised bungalow in West Guilford ensuring it met her first priority, a view of water.

McIlmurray wanted a part-time job in her retirement for "fun money," so she walked into CanoeFM, which, at the time, was still waiting CRTC approval. She admitted to manager Dave Sovereign she had no previous experience, but he told her, "you can work here but we don't pay." She took the job. At first, she did paperwork, but soon was told to go on air. She initially declined, but Sovereign convinced her "you like to talk, so don't worry." She began with her own show "Cooking with Cathy" reading recipes. She soon started talking to people from different organizations, getting leads out of the local paper for community events to promote. Like most cottagers, until she moved here permanently she didn't really understand the community and the needs of the people living here.

Cathy McIlmurray at Sleeping in Cars. *Submitted.*

Her new knowledge and her upbringing of helping others led her to many volunteer organizations. She has been with SIRCH for over 15 years, still helping with the annual winter clothing drive and the Repair Cafe. She helps with Aging Together as Community and is also a board member for H.E.R.S, the area's women shelter representing Haliburton County. She has been a Husky billet and recently slept in her car overnight to support Places for People.

While she does much for others, on her 75th birthday, she finally did something she's wanted to do for decades, getting a tattoo of a loon on her shoulder, a symbol of her love of Haliburton County.

Highlander business

Game a chance to operate your own brewery

By Lisa Gervais

Boshkung Social and Haliburton Highlands Brewing are two craft breweries featured in a new board game called BrewHouse.

Creator, Doug Salloum, a retired brewer, and his wife, Ruth-Ann MacKinnon, were in the County last week to unveil the game.

Now retired, Salloum said brewing was the most fun job he ever had, and he had a lot of jobs.

"After I retired, I decided to share the brewing experience with others ... by designing BrewHouse, a board game for people who like craft beer," he said.

"The game is realistic without being too technical. It is easy to set up and to play. You don't need to know anything about brewing to play, but along the way you will learn a lot about running a brewery."

In the game, each player starts with a game board representing the basic brewing processes found in any brewery. Players also start with some capital, called beer bucks.

Players first choose a brewery card. These cards represent partner breweries from around Ontario who helped make the game happen. When a player chooses a brewery card, they "are" that brewery for the game. They also acquire a player advantage specific to that brewery.

Players then choose which beers they want to brew, from the pack of 50 different beer cards. The beer cards provide recipes for classic beer styles. They also have beer trivia (on which players may be tested during the game).

Players spend their beer bucks to purchase the brewing inputs they need (malt, hops and yeast) and move their beer, represented by keg-shaped markers, through each stage of the brewing process. Once the beer is in the tap room, players can sell it for more beer bucks.

How many beer bucks are earned when selling the beer depends on the style of beer and the quality of beer produced, as in any craft brewery.

Salloum said players earn brew master credits along the way by meeting sales milestones, by having a great range of beers in their tap room, by making money, and by strategically investing their profits.

A wild-card element is that players must select a card from the 'things happen' deck after every turn and respond accordingly.

The winner is the player with the most brew master credits at the end of the game.

Braden Labonte turned the imagined brewery into a game with a German biergarten colour palette, keg-shaped markers, beer bucks, and brewery-appropriate 'things happen' cards.

Salloum said friends, family, and former colleagues, game-tested and suggested tweaks and rules changes along the way.

Then came digital-age marketing challenges. Salloum said social media and other sites "promised a lot and cost a lot, but ultimately failed to deliver."

Ruth-Ann MacKinnon and husband, Doug Salloum, play BrewHouse at Boshkung Social. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

So, he fell back on real relationships, with real people.

Now that he has the finished product in hand, after 3.5 years of work, Salloum said he'd never seen anything like it, and said he felt "a combination of pride and relief. Happy and relieved, because it does look great."

MacKinnon added, "one of my favourite features of the game is players have the option to put their 'profits' into social or environmental investments, such as hosting a music festival or installing a carbon-capture system.

"This is a fun new game and we are really thrilled it will be available in cottage country this year," she added

BrewHouse is available from partner breweries across Ontario (including Boshkung and Haliburton Highlands) and from a Shopify site (in late March or early April).

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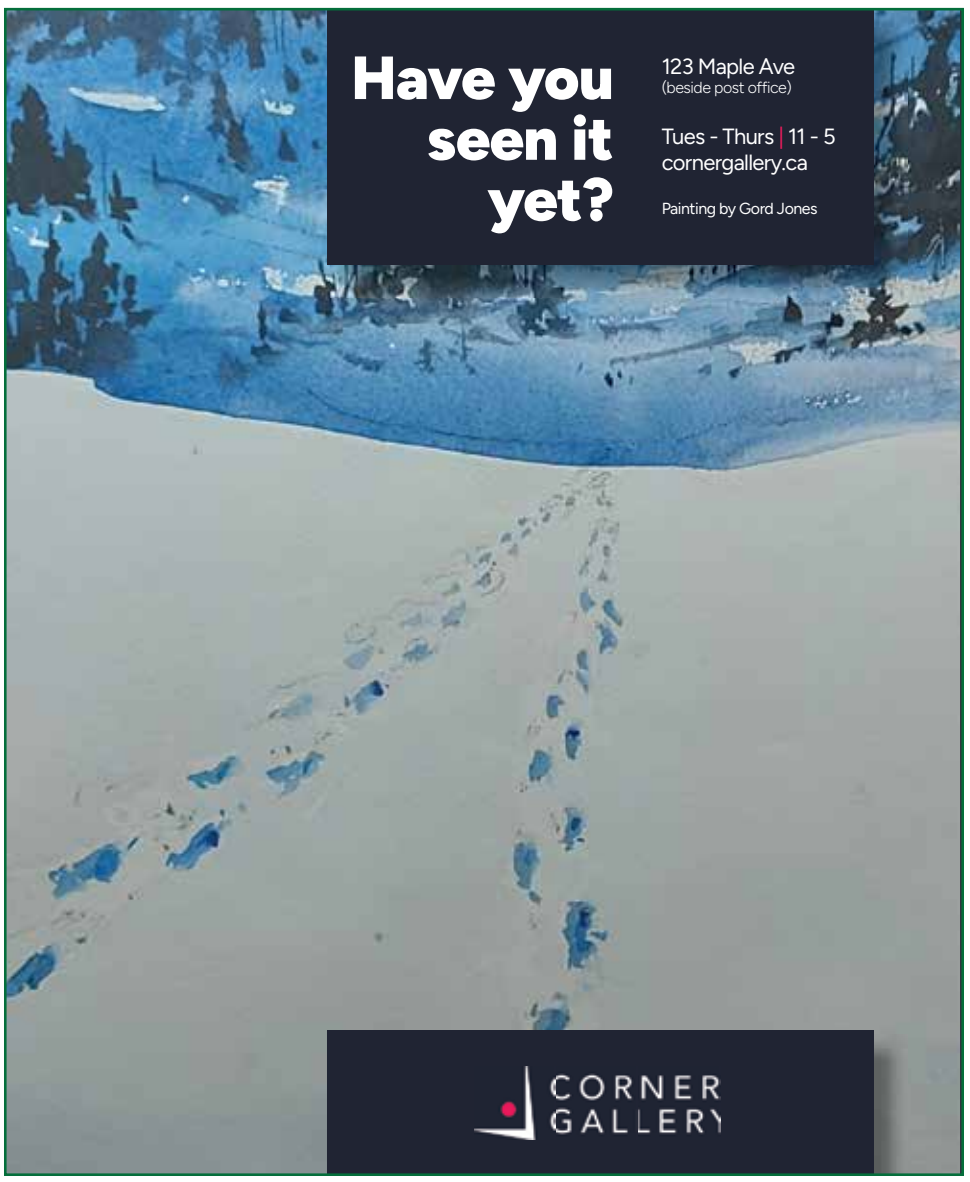

Highlander community

Left to right: Sheila Kitchen, Wendy Rechanicz, Lori Hederson, Mary Trepanier, Darlene Yule, Pat Thornett and Elinor Kernohan celebrated the 3,000th blanket. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

These ladies are so square

The Knitting for Warmth group held an afternoon tea March 25 to mark the group finishing its 3,000th blanket, with 99,000 knit squares since its inception 23 years ago. Spokesperson Mary Trepanier said members of the community, and province, participate in the project in many ways: donating leftover wool, knitting or crocheting squares, or help sewing the squares together into blankets at Highland Hills United Church in Minden, Tuesdays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Grateful recipients of the blankets are: Minden food bank, Children's Aid Society, SIRCH, Point in Time, Ronald McDonald House, Haliburton hospital, County fire departments, Hyland Crest, KHVS, the YWCA women's shelter, A Place Called Home, and Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre. "It has been wonderful to learn that the actual knitting has been an important pastime for senior citizens wishing to feel helpful, patients in hospital, children learning to knit, summer cottagers, and people with a lifetime supply of wool ends," Trepanier said. She noted perfect knitting is not necessary. Squares are eight inches by eight inches (4.5 mm, 32 stitches for worsted weight). She encouraged people to donate yarn, knit or crochet at home, come for social time to sew together, and give blankets away. Contact Trepanier at 705-286-5173.

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Highlander community

Boshkung launches feeding frenzy at ASES

By Mike Baker

While he now spends much of his workday surrounded by food, Boshkung Brewing owner Mathew Renda remembers what it was like as a kid struggling to get by on an empty stomach.

The Minden entrepreneur launched a new breakfast program at Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) recently, providing a free hot meal for between 50 and 75 young students.

Renda, his wife Deborah Banks and several Boshkung staffers, who volunteered their time, pitched up at the school March 21, serving bacon, scrambled eggs, muffins, yogurt and fruit salad to those most in-need. He said the food was prepped in the kitchen at Boshkung Social.

"What a morning – we were in there for about 8 a.m. and were serving kids until about 9:15. Just seeing the kids be so excited, they all came in and had little breakfast coupons the school has had made. The smiles and joy on their faces, it was awesome," Renda said.

The program will run weekly, every Friday morning, adding to the 'healthy snack bin' program the school currently provides.

ASES principal Mike Gervais said ASES has had other food programs in the past, supported by Food for Kids Haliburton, President's Choice Power Full Kids, and local donors, though noted this new offering is hitting a specific need.

"This initiative targets students who would benefit most from a healthy meal… the goal is to provide nutritious options that fuel students for the day ahead," Gervais said. "The school recognized some students could benefit from a proper breakfast, especially those who may be skipping the meal.

"On the first day, the program saw a noticeable increase in attendance from the students it was designed to support," Gervais added, noting studies show children who regularly eat a balanced breakfast perform better academically, are more alert in class, and exhibit improved problem-solving skills."

Renda said he regularly used his school's breakfast program when he was a student in Durham Region. With the cost-of-living crisis impacting many County families, Renda said he felt a calling to give back to the community.

The idea came about after a conversation Renda had with one of his workers at the Social, who has a child enrolled at ASES and felt an enhanced breakfast program would do a lot of good.

"So, we jumped right in – we do a lot with our food banks and other organizations, but nothing that directly helps and impacts students. As someone who has been there – my dad was a shift worker with Toronto Transit, my mom stayed home, so we didn't have a ton of money. Now that I'm in a position to step up, it's something I want and need to do," Renda said.

Inset: Boshkung Brewing owner Mathew Renda, his wife Deborah Banks and ASES principal Mike Gervais say a new breakfast program at the school has been well received. Above: Renda dishes out some food. *Photos by Mike Baker*

There are dishes lined up throughout April, with French toast, waffles, and pancakes on the menu.

Renda plans to run the program as long as he's in business in the County and hopes to expand in future. "If we can progressively build this program so that we're feeding 100 kids, that would be awesome. I want to feed as many mouths as I can."

For feeding up to 75 kids, he estimated it will cost around $5,000 to run the rest of this school year and about $11,000 for a full year.

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*stats from socialinsider.io

Highlander events

Canned laughs on a stormy night

This past Saturday, March 29, the Boshkung Brewery played host to the travelling comedy show Canned Laughs. It's a show where comedians help raise money and food donations for the food banks. On a stormy night, a packed crowd filled the patio with laughter for a good cause.

Above left: Lots of laughs in the house on a stormy night. Above right: Funny man, host of the show, Paul Haywood, warming up the crowd for the comedians. Far inset: Derek Holly brings the intensity for the crowd. Left: Herb Irving laying it on thick for the laughs. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Highlander arts

Soul-folk songstress coming to County

By Lisa Gervais

Celeigh Cardinal is coming to Haliburton County. *Submitted.*

The Haliburton County Folk Society says the audience can expect a powerful voice with compelling storytelling, humour, and a tight five-piece band, when Celeigh Cardinal comes to town April 19.

Juno award winner, David Francey, describes Cardinal as "stellar. Riveting. Real. A writer of rare depth and honesty and in the voice a powerful beauty. I felt the songs and I felt lucky to bear witness. A true light."

The HCFS said it was thrilled to present the 2020 JUNO award winner for Indigenous Artist of the Year. Cardinal's recent studio album, *Boundless Possibilities* has garnered two Canadian 2025 Folk Music award nominations—for English Songwriter of the Year and Indigenous Songwriter of the Year, and she received two 2025 JUNO nominations for Adult Contemporary Album of the Year and Contemporary Indigenous Artist of the Year.

The Folk Society's artistic director, Sue Shikaze, said, "Celeigh's live performance is like a warm embrace, wrapping you in with her smooth, powerful voice and engaging presence. This is a show you won't want to miss."

Cardinal's music reflects her roots.

She says, "growing up in northern Alberta, I was one of two native families in the church and the school that I went to. My father's family was part of the 'Sixties Scoop,' so we didn't grow up connected to our Indigenous culture at all. My whole life, I felt like I was struggling with my identity and the many expectations that were put on me, so it took a long time for me to feel like I had a voice."

The Folk Society said the concert offers something for everyone - a seamless blend of soul, folk, funk, and rock that showcases the standout talents of her band and Cardinal's impressive vocal chops in equal measure, and like never before. The concert is happening on the Easter weekend with folks encouraged to make it a family affair. Children 18 and under can attend at no charge

The local opener for the show will be Jamie McGowan. Originally from the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond, Scotland, McGowan effortlessly settled into life in the Haliburton Highlands. The combination of beautiful scenery, nature, and his Scottish roots gives his music a unique take on traditional Scottish Celtic music, the Folk Society said.

Tickets, and more information, are available at haliburtonfolk.com. To find out more about Cardinal, visit celeighcardinal.com. The performance will take place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.

The show is presented by the Haliburton County Folk Society, a part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. For more information about the Coop see haliburtoncooperative.on.ca.

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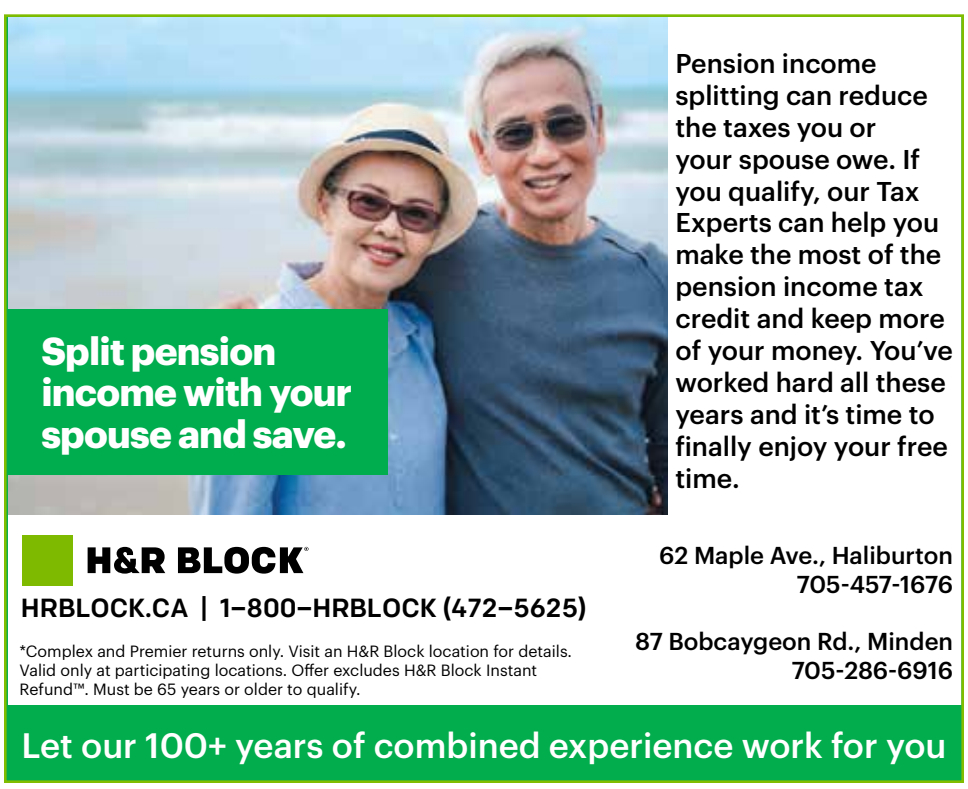
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Home of the Highland Storm

U15 LL Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House

As the final whistle blew on the 2024-2025 season, the U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House team capped off an impressive journey; one filled with remarkable achievements, hard-fought battles, and unforgettable moments. From the opening puck drop, to the last game of the season, this team showed heart, dedication, and a never-give-up attitude that made every game exciting.

The season started with a few bumps and bruises, as the team adjusted to new lineups and worked on building chemistry. Despite the early challenges, Tom, Graham and Jaime (the coaching staff) instilled a strong work ethic, and soon enough, the team found its rhythm.

The players quickly developed a bond that carried them through tough games, with every win feeling earned and every loss serving as a valuable lesson. There were standout performances all season long.

Cambell McCracken finished the season with the team lead in goals and assists, proving to be a force at both ends of the ice, earning accolades for his relentless work.

Other notable performances came from Ty Hughes, Duncan Evans Fockler and Gideon Borgdorff, who all played pivotal roles in key victories and showed the depth of talent this team has.

But it wasn't just individual performances that carried the team to success—it was the unity and teamwork. From the first line to the fourth, everyone contributed. Whether it was the defensemen clearing the crease or the forwards cycling the puck with precision, every player understood their role, and it showed on the ice. The team's power play improved throughout the season, with timely goals coming from the most unexpected places.

The experience gained from the season, the growth of the players, and the resilience shown during every match have set the stage for even greater things next year. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to the fans, families, and supporters who cheered on the team throughout the season. *Submitted.*

U13 Cheryl Smith Re/Max

The Highland Storm Cheryl Smith Re/Max U13 hockey team wrapped up an unforgettable season, marked by resilience, determination, and plenty of thrilling moments on the ice.

With a roster of skilled and passionate players, including Grayson Park, Rowen Johnson, Chase Kerr, Corbin Elliot, Linus Gervais, Jaxon Hurd, Bently Bull, Kelson Bagshaw, James Gooley, Rowan Little, Marshall Heasman, Connor Iles, Nash Wilson, Austin Cunningham, and Liam Milburn, the Storm made their presence known across the province.

Their remarkable journey included two intense tournaments resulting in two hard-fought finals. The team's determination paid off as they captured the B Championship title in their home tournament, adding a well-earned trophy to their season's accomplishments.

But the crowning achievement may have come in the Victoria Durham final, where the Highland Storm went head-to-head with Ontario's number one ranked Tier 2 team. The series was a showcase of grit and perseverance. After a heartbreaking overtime loss in Game 1, the Storm bounced back in spectacular fashion, securing a win on their opponent's home ice in Game 2. Game 3 proved to be another nail-biter, with the Highland Storm battling fiercely and holding their rivals without an even-strength goal — a testament to their relentless defense and stellar goaltending. Although they fell short in the final game, the Storm's incredible effort and sportsmanship left a lasting impression.

Each player contributed to a season defined by growth, teamwork, and unforgettable memories. Coaches Chris Kerr, Jesse Johnson, Shawn Walker, Joe Boice and Tyler Martin were very proud of the team all year long as was manager Brad Park. Congratulations to the Highland Storm U13s on an extraordinary season. The future of Storm hockey is undoubtedly bright. *Submitted.*

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The Huskies

The Huskies celebrate the first goal of the game April 1. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Huskies on brink of eliminating Canadiens

By Lisa Gervais

It's been a week of adversity for Haliburton County Husky players – enduring the aftermath of the ice storm. But the squad overcame all of that to take a 3-2 series lead in OJHL second round action. They could eliminate the Toronto Junior Canadiens when the teams clash in Haliburton tonight (April 3).

The storm forced the Huskies to cancel their March 29 game at home. It was rescheduled to March 30, but the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena remained shuttered. The Huskies had to travel to the Canadiens' barn instead March 31. They were not back at home again until April 1, playing their first game ever at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

Coach Ryan Ramsay said Tuesday's tilt in Haliburton was a good game. "We played well. Obviously, it was a great start. We had a little bit of a lapse in the second, but we played well enough to win. Good on the boys."

The Huskies recorded a 5-2 win, but it

Continued on the next page

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The Huskies

Top: Ty Petrou comes up with the puck after a behind-the-net scramble. Above: Cameron Hankai zeros in on the Canadiens' defender. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Ramsay: 'team with character'

Continued from page 16

was a closer affair with two empty netters to seal the deal.

The Huskies scored early: Luke Hampel, from Deandres De Jesus and Chase Lefebvre just 1:38 in. Then, Nathan Poole potted one at 6:46, from Tai York and Nolan Ling.

The Canadiens got one back, at 15:43.

Ty Petrou gave the Huskies a 3-1 lead, at 14 minutes, from Cameron Hankai and Alex Bradshaw.

The Canadiens made it a 3-2 game at 9:43 of the third, but Petrou and Isaac Larmand found the empty net.

Ramsay is happy with the likes of Petrou and Poole, saying the team leaders "continue to elevate their game when needed. They're leaders and they're great hockey players."

He added goalie Tyler Hodges has been "great" in the playoffs.

Ramsay talked about how the majority of his players – whether billets or at hockey house - were without power, connectivity, and running water for 48 hours. He said five to seven players were sitting cold and in the dark at homes without generators.

Yet, they boarded a bus to Toronto March 31 when they hadn't slept or eaten much, or been able to focus well.

"It just shows the character of kids we have this year compared to other years. These guys want to win and they're really close. Other years, we've had good teams but questioned how bad they wanted to win. This group, they're dialed in and they really want to win as a group. It shows," Ramsay said.

They beat the Canadiens 3-0 this past Monday, on goals by Larmand, Poole, and Petrou; with Hodges recoding the 29-save shutout.

The team lost 3-1 March 26, with Petrou the lone goal scorer.

Up 3-2 in the series, Ramsay said they have put themselves in a good position to eliminate a good hockey team at home.

"You can't get ahead of yourself, but I would rather be up 3-2, than down 3-2.

"You hope to get some bounces and some luck. Once you're this far in the season, every team is good. You need some bounces; you need some luck and you need some guys to have a game. I think our focus is the same thing. You know they are going to come out fighting for their lives because they are, so it's just that…match that intensity and just be ready to play."

Next game: Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. at Haliburton.

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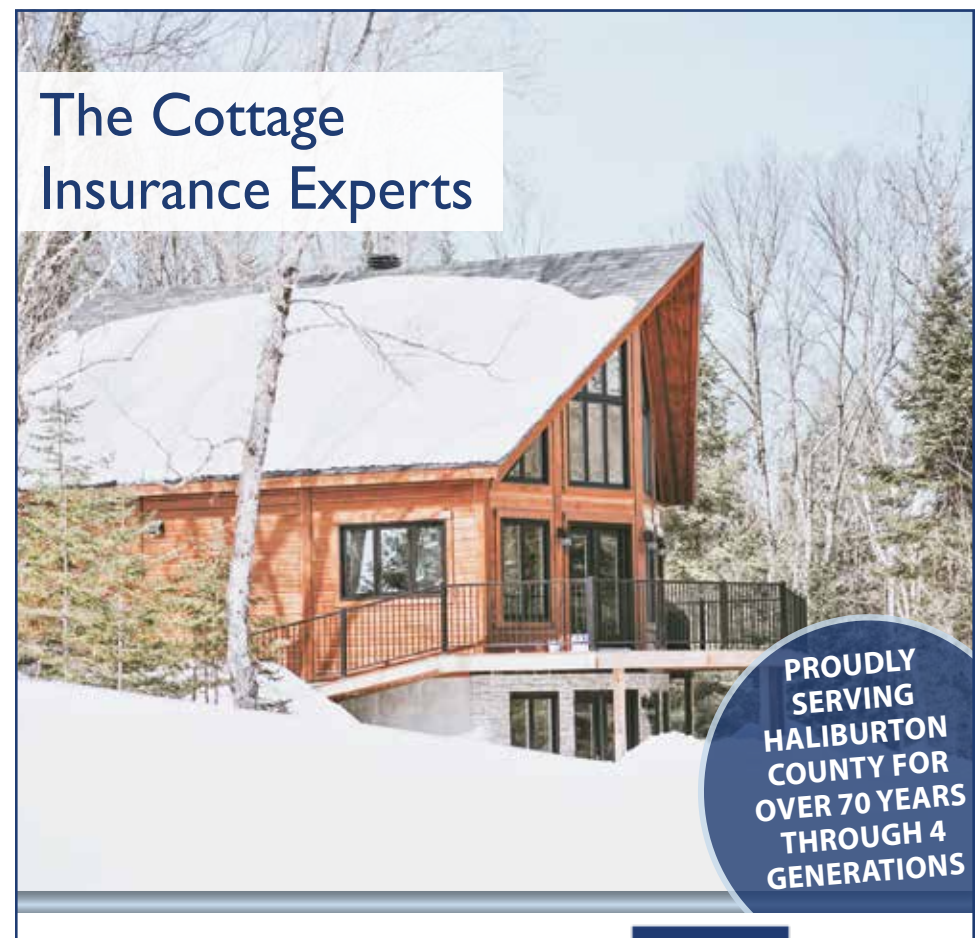

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.

Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.

Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.

Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.

Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.

Saturdays: Open only for special events

Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.

Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. April 7, 14, 21 and 28 Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 starting at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

Cornhole at 7 p.m. April 3, 10, 17 and 24 Cost is $5 per player.

HHHS social recreation April 10 & 24 at 10 a.m.

Fish and chips April 4 and 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 for one piece, $20 for two pieces.

Wings and jam session April 11 and 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Seniors 55+ lunch April 11 and 25 at noon. Cost is $17 per person

Meat draw April 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 3 p.m.

Soc Hop dance at the legion, featuring music from the 1950s and 1960s April 26, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Door charge is $5.

EVENTS

Drop into any branch of the Haliburton County Public Library during April to vote for your favourite 'Forest of Reading' book and receive a fun button. There is still time to read more books, voting closes April 30. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca for more information.

April 4, 11 a.m. Stop by the Wilberforce branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for an adult beginner-friendly session about starting a successful vegetable garden. Additional workshops will be at the Minden branch April 5 at 2 p.m. and the Dysart branch April 26 at 2 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. Register at haliburtonlibrary.ca or by calling 705-457-2241.

April 4, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Youth Unlimited is providing bubble soccer at the HHSS gym for all youth in Grades 6-12. Cost is $20. Waivers available at the door or can be done in advance at yfc.ca/haliburton-highlands. Waivers must be signed by a parent. Indoor running shoes are also required.

April 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. SIRCH Repair Café returns to the SIRCH Bistro for its 2025 season opener. Bring your broken wares for our team, to fix, anything from electronics and small appliances to clothing, jewellery, ceramics, furniture, bikes and more. Repair cafes will run on the first Sunday of each month from April to October.

April 7, 1 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library will host Douglas Tindal at its spring cafe at the Minden Hills branch. Author of Tales from Wine on the Porch, Tindal will discuss inspirations for his book and his life in Haliburton County. Signed copies will be available for $15, with $3 going to the Friends group. Admission is by donation. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Penni Chalk at 705-286-3276.

April 9, 2 p.m. The Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a free adult needle felting workshop. Create bold and beautiful landscapes using striking, contrast colours. A second workshop will take place at the Dorset branch April 25 at 11 a.m. All materials provided. Registration required. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca or call 705-457-2241.

April 9, 7 to 9 p.m. Telling Our Stories Speaker Series features author Gordon Cressy, who will share narratives from his most recent publication highlighting his adventures over the past 60 years, including in the Caribbean, Africa, China, Chicago and Toronto. At the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association fish hatchery. Admission is $15 per person, available at the door, online at tellingourstories.company.site., or by contacting Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com.

April 12, 1 p.m. Drop-in to the Minden, Dysart or Stanhope branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a family movie matinee, featuring Peter Rabbit. A screening of The Lorax will be held in Minden, Stanhope and Cardiff April 26.

April 12, 2:30 p.m. Join fellow movie enthusiasts at the Cardiff branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a lively discussion on directors, films, actors and genres. No registration required.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

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PLACES FOR PEOPLE

What's on

Kids check out the tapping buckets. *File.*

Celebrating the liquid amber in the Highlands

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton is celebrating all things maple this coming weekend. The County of Haliburton has put together the following list.

Colour of Wood

Hosted by: Wendy & Rick Wood

Rick and Wendy started making Maple syrup on their 25 acres of managed forest in 2015 with 90 taps on buckets. They now have almost 1,000 taps on pipeline. It all flows downhill to their sugar house. Just sap, gravity, lots of firewood and the help of Mother Nature. Their syrup is known for its unique label and wonderful taste. They are located at 1255 Peterson Rd. Minden Hills, 249-993-0134, colourofwood@gmail.com

Wintergreen Maple Products

People are invited to tour the bush on self-guided tours. Phone ahead to book an appointment. 705-286-3202.

Esson Creek Maple

Tours of the sugarbush can be booked all year, and during syrup season will end with a "sugar on snow" experience. The tour includes the forest, the minerals, and the entire syrup-making process

Yours Outdoors Maple Magic

Ready to make maple memories with your loved ones? Then this experience is for you. Maple Magic is geared towards families, kids of all ages and anyone who has a sweet tooth. During this two-hour experience, you'll hear the ins and outs of maple syrup production, follow the impressive journey from sap to syrup, check out a real sugar shack, and eat a pancake meal.

Dominion Hotel

Special maple entrees and drinks made with local maple syrup will be added to the menu on April 5 and 6. try a maple glazed salmon, sugar maple pulled pork sandwich with maple BBQ sauce, sugar shack poutine with pulled pork and maple BBQ sauce… as well as try a beverage like a maple hot chocolate.

Hook, Line & Sinker

Special maple entrees and drinks, made with local maple syrup will be added to the menu on April 5 and 6. Try the maple dusted wings or the maple mustard salmon bowl… finished off with assorted mini maple cake… and if you're thirsty, try the maple Bourbon fizz cocktail.

Abbey Gardens

Special maple menu items and treats, made with local maple syrup will be added to the menu on April 5 and 6. Try the ham and Swiss sandwich with a maple mustard sauce… finished off with assorted butter tarts, maple cookies and cupcakes.

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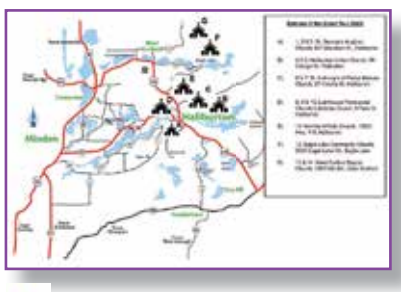

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FOR RENT – Minden, 2 bdrm apt to rent in a house. Avail. Mid April, long term. Occasional shared kitchen, mature couple or single person. Shared hydro. $1500 mo. Call 705-286-3561, 1 p.m. to-6 p.m.

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, Various Sizes, Call 705-457-1224

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EVENTS

NORWOOD COUNTRY JAMBOREE - July 17-20. Tickets available at Wilson Tire & Battery, Lindsay or 1-800-954-9998

NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

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AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more info and an online version visitwww.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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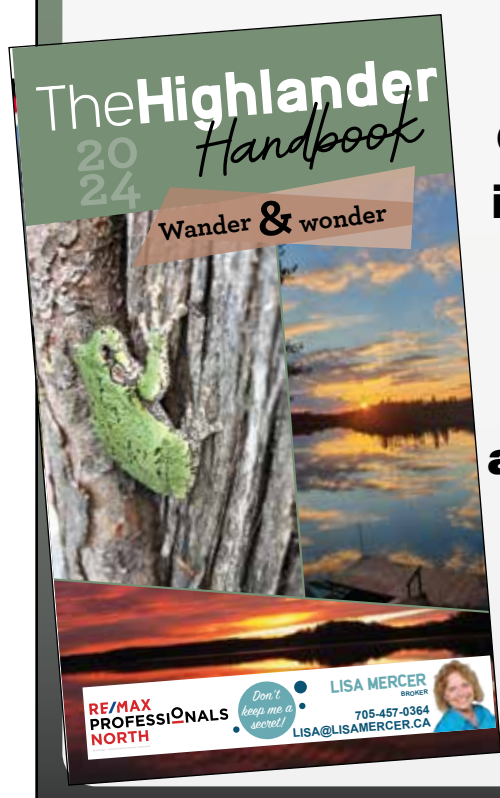

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1 S	2 H	3 E	4 L	■	5 C	6 U	7 B	8 I	9 C	■	10 R	11 H	12 E	13 A
14 M	E	M	E	■	15 O	H	A	R	A	■	16 I	I	I	I
17 E	S	P	N	■	18 N	O	T	O	N	■	19 B	G	O	N
20 W	H	A	T	21 S	T	H	E	C	A	22 T	C	H	■	■
23 S	E	T	T	E	E	■	■	■	24 D	E	A	R	25 I	26 E
■	■	27 H	O	W	S	28 I	29 T	30 H	A	N	G	I	N	G
■	■	■	■	31 A	T	S	E	A	■	32 T	E	S	L	A
33 M	34 A	35 T	36 E	■	37 S	L	A	V	38 S	■	39 S	E	A	N
40 O	C	E	A	41 N	■	42 E	C	R	U	43 S	■	■	■	■
44 W	H	E	R	E	45 S	T	H	E	B	E	46 E	47 F	■	■
48 S	E	N	T	R	A	■	■	■	49 T	E	N	E	50 T	51 S
■	■	52 W	H	O	S	53 Y	54 O	55 U	R	D	A	D	D	Y
56 F	57 O	O	D	■	58 H	O	L	D	A	■	59 M	O	I	S
60 B	O	L	A	■	61 E	R	D	O	C	■	62 E	R	S	T
63 I	F	F	Y	■	64 S	E	E	S	T	■	65 L	A	C	S

THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

S	C	A	65 L	■	T	S	E	E	64 S	■	Y	F	F	63 I
T	S	R	62 E	■	C	O	D	R	61 E	■	A	L	O	60 B
S	I	O	59 M	■	A	D	L	O	58 H	■	D	O	57 O	56 F
Y	D	D	A	D	R	55 U	54 O	53 Y	S	O	H	52 W	■	■
51 S	50 T	E	N	E	49 T	■	■	■	A	R	T	N	E	48 S
■	■	47 F	46 E	E	B	E	H	T	45 S	E	R	E	H	44 W
■	■	■	■	43 S	U	R	C	42 E	■	41 N	A	E	C	40 O
N	A	E	39 S	■	38 S	V	A	L	37 S	■	36 E	35 T	34 A	33 M
A	L	S	E	32 T	■	A	E	S	T	31 A	■	■	■	■
G	N	I	G	N	A	30 H	29 T	28 I	S	W	O	27 H	■	■
26 E	25 I	R	A	E	24 D	■	■	■	E	E	T	T	E	23 S
■	■	H	C	22 T	A	C	E	H	T	21 S	T	A	H	20 W
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4	2	7	1	3	6	5	8	9
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3	6	2	7	8	4	1	9	5
5	9	4	3	2	1	7	8	6

HELP WANTED

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library Requires
Part-time Library Branch Assistants

Successful applicants will have enthusiasm for creating and running library programs, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and demonstrated proficiency in basic computer software, internet applications, e-books and mobile devices. Educational requirements include an OLS Certificate in Small Library Management, or a Library Technician Diploma, or a combination of education and related experience.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your cover letter and resume to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca by 4:30pm on April 16, 2025.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

In Loving Memory of
Norm Mills
(1944–2024)

A Celebration of Norm's Life will be held at the Sandy Lane Resort, 17592 Highway 35, Algonquin Highlands, Ontario K0M 1S0, on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 12:00 o'clock noon until 3:00 pm. A buffet will be served.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue and Rehoming (cheques only), Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Local Foodbanks, and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation in Norm's memory and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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READ THE HIGHLANDER ... ANYWHERE.

Highlander puzzles

Answer Me This

by Barbara Olson
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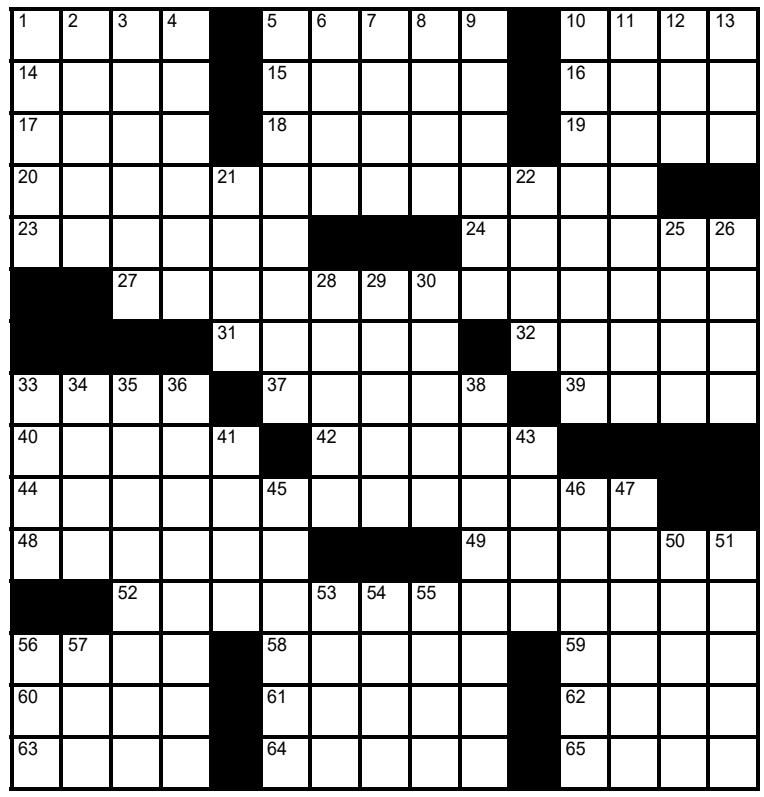

Across

1 "The Giving Tree" author Silverstein
5 Shaped like Rubik's toy
10 Flightless bird or actress Perlman
14 Viral video clip
15 Catherine of "Schitt$ Creek"
16 Four, on some old clocks
17 Armchair athlete's network
18 "___ your life!"
19 Weed-___ (lawn spray brand)
20 Question to an angler?
23 Fancy sofa
24 Granny's "snookums"
27 Question to a museum curator?
31 On a fishing expedition
32 AC motor inventor Nikola
33 What a sock may be missing
37 Serbs or Croats, e.g.
39 Connery who played James the first?
40 Salty expanse
42 Some hose hues
44 Question to a meat seller?
48 Midsize Nissan model
49 Set of beliefs
52 Question to a child in a paternity suit?
56 Epicure's delight
58 ___ grudge (not forgive)
59 Roughly 30 "jours"
60 Gaucho's weighted rope
61 Urgent care pro
62 Lead-in to "while"
63 Full of uncertainties
64 Views, old-style
65 Quebec's Val-des-___

Down

1 Ducks akin to mergansers
2 Guy/girl pronoun
3 One who feels your pain
4 Gave temporarily
5 Prize winning events
6 "I think I messed up"
7 Restrain, as breath
8 ___-Z (old Camaro)
9 Home to almost 3000 hockey rinks
10 Heart and lung enclosures
11 Skyscraper
12 A-U link
13 French river to the Rhone
21 "... long way to run, ___ needle pulling thread..."
22 Camp sight
25 Visiting Hollywood's city
26 "Downton Abbey" actor Peter
28 Part of an atoll
29 Be at the head of the class?
30 Le ___ (Seine city name meaning "the harbour)"
33 Does a lawn chore
34 Tooth or back pain
35 Film about a high school kid with lupine urges
36 Annual eco-friendly celebration
38 Make a difference?
41 Famous fiddling Emperor
43 Gardening packet item
45 Window pane holders
46 Glossy paint variety
47 Bogart's classic hat
50 Tassimo's answer to the K-Cup
51 Ways: Abbr.
53 Days of ___
54 Shoppe descriptor, maybe
55 Stems used in miso soup
56 Grp. once led by Mueller
57 Response to a gut punch

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	7	3			5			6
				3		7	2	4

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